



# NIH MD | PHD Partnership Training Program

National Institutes of Health  
Intramural Research Program

May 23, 2012

Dear NIH GPP Students,

As you may know, we have established a pathway within the NIH MD/PhD Partnership Training Program to enable exceptionally promising NIH graduate students committed to becoming physician-scientists to combine current PhD training in the NIH GPP with medical schools participating in the Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP).

This pathway, designated 'Track-3', enables current NIH GPP students to apply to medical schools for combined degree training with the MD following the PhD. This program is for students preparing for careers as physician-scientists who intend to spend at least 50% of their time on basic or clinical research apart from direct patient care. During the MD phase of training, students will be expected to pursue significant research projects with their current or medical school research mentors. Students who are approved for funding by our MSTP advisory committee and the NIH institute in which they are earning their PhD, and are admitted to an MSTP-funded medical school MD/PhD training program can receive tuition and stipend benefits comparable to traditional MSTP-funded students. However, not all MSTP programs are able to offer full benefits, and some programs are not accepting partnership students at this time. Please consult the program director or the MD/PhD Partnership Training Program web site for more information, a FAQ sheet and a list of participating institutions:

<http://mdphd.gpp.nih.gov/prospectiveStudents/track3.asp>

All current or accepted NIH GPP students wishing to apply for partnership funding for Track-3 of the MSTP must apply for review by the NIH MD/PhD partnership program. **We are now accepting applications from current GPP students intending to apply for medical school admission and who will matriculate in the Fall of 2013.** You must have at least 1 year of PhD training left at the time of application and have MCAT scores available by the end of June 2012 for our review. If you are not ready to matriculate in medical school in the Fall of 2013, or need more than a 1-year deferral, we recommend that you wait until a future cycle to apply, as the more achievements you have as a PhD student the better your chances for selection. For those of you who took the MCAT some time ago, we

have found that exceptions to the 'expiration' of MCAT scores may be given by medical schools for those engaged in PhD training.

We will use similar admissions standards to determine eligibility for MSTP partnership funding as do external MD/PhD Programs although other factors, particularly research achievements, are also weighted heavily. We will interview and advise selected candidates and communicate a decision on funding by July 2012, before you commit to applying in the 2013 medical school application cycle. *Note that to be eligible for funding through the MSTP partnership, you will need to be accepted by an MSTP-funded MD/PhD training program separately from our review.*

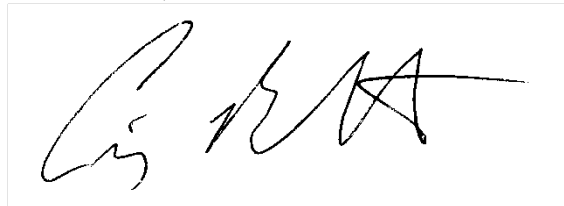
If you wish to be considered for acceptance into the NIH MSTP partnership this year, please submit your application materials by email to Matt Vogt in our program office at vogtm@niaid.nih.gov by **June 20, 2012**. Please indicate in your cover letter when you expect to finish your PhD and when your MCAT scores will be available for review if you will not have these by June 20.

You will need to submit the following: CV including a summary of research and clinical experiences (similar in format to the AMCAS), personal statement, your final undergraduate transcript, three letters of recommendation and your MCAT score report. Your personal statement should address how you will use medical school and additional clinical training to further your goals as a physician-scientist. We will accept your AMCAS application as supplemental information in place of a CV if you have already completed it.

We look forward to reviewing your applications, and please feel free to contact us if you have further questions. If you would like to consult with Craig Blackstone, the program director, Rick Fairhurst, the Deputy Director, or another member of the MD/PhD program steering committee before applying, a link to our contact information is listed below:

<http://mdphd.gpp.nih.gov/contactsLinks/contactsLinks.asp>

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Blackstone', enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Craig Blackstone, M.D., Ph.D.  
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